



# B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the  
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Serving Fort Bend and Harris Counties

Editor in Chief: Kelley Hughes N5ULZ (713) 499-9806 FAX: (713) 499-0279 Compuserve ID: 72603,623

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was originally organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford when required. Since that time, BVARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active Ham radio club in the southwest Houston area.

Today, BVARC is truly a general-interest club, with an impressive record of Public Service. This commitment to service has been recognized by the Amateur Radio Relay League with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members, who represent the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available on the 145.47 and 444.55 MHz repeaters.

To obtain information about the club and its various activities, as well as information about joining the club, contact Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN, at (713) 859-6512.

Volume: 17 Issue: 9

September 1994

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

From: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1630  
Missouri City, Texas 77459



## B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, Oct. 6 7:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting Sugar Land Community Center
Thursday, Oct. 13 7:30 pm	General BVARC Membership Meeting - Sugar Land Community Center

Allen Mattis N5AFV  
5314 Wigton Drive  
Houston, TX 77096



# October 1994

## B-VARC Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	<b>3</b> 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	<b>4</b> 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	<b>5</b> 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 KHz)	<b>6</b> 7:30 PM B-VARC Board Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 AM 5K Run @ Memorial Park 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 9:00 AM Hou. Emergency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
<b>9</b> 1:30 PM Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	<b>10</b> 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	<b>11</b> 6:00 PM Amateur Exam Session Strake Jesuit College Prep. 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	<b>12</b> 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 KHz)	<b>13</b> 7:30 PM Membership Meeting Sugar Land Commu- nity Center	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 9:00 AM Hou. Emergency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) <b>Alamo Challenge Bike Ride</b>
<b>16</b> 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30 <b>Alamo Challenge Bike Ride</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	<b>18</b> 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	<b>19</b> 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 KHz)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 9:00 AM Hou. Emer- gency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
<b>23</b> 1:30 PM Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	<b>24</b> 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	<b>25</b> 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	<b>26</b> 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 KHz)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 9:00 AM Hou. Emer- gency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
<b>30</b> 6:00 AM - 2:00 PM Texas Coastal Bike Ride 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	<b>31</b> 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters					

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



## Notes From the President

by Doug Holley, KE5SR

I hope that all of our members and families had a good summer, hopefully with a vacation that you enjoyed. I have not been fortunate to have had my vacation yet, but I hope to get away soon. The club and other responsibilities have kept me more than busy thus far this year.

I would like to thank "Scanner Jack" (KV5TMY) for an informative July program on scanners. Jack had so much information to convey to the group and time seemed to be too short. The August program was presented by Randy Pollard (AK5G) on QCWA. This was an outstanding presentation and I wish to also thank Randy for bringing it to the group. There was time at the end of Randy's presentation left, so Jack talked a bit more about scanners and answered questions. Thanks again, Jack.

Our program schedule for the October 13 meeting will be provided by Tom Taormina who spoke to us earlier this year. The subject of the program will be "The Curse of Ft. Huachuca." I will leave you in suspense about the substance of just what this program is about, so you will have to be at the meeting to learn the rest of the story. I will promise that you will like the program very much and you will not forget this true story. I am personally sorry to learn that Tom is unable to run for the Vice-Director of the West Gulf Division of A.R.R.L. I felt like Tom was the person we needed to support us in that position. Tom is a person of many talents and wears many hats, but most of all is eager to roll up his sleeve and work for his fellow hams.

I am sorry to announce that the September 6 seminar on hazardous materials that was to be conducted by Ft. Bend County Emergency Management was canceled at the last moment because the printed material was not available to present the course. The seminar has been rescheduled for October 4, 1994. The time and location are the same. The seminar will be conducted at the George Memorial Library in Richmond, Texas. Two sessions will be held: the first from 7:00 a.m. until noon and the second session will be held 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Please let me know if you can attend, so I can let Ron know. I look forward to seeing you there.

There are plans beginning to be made for a group that will organize a 1995 or 1996 ham convention for the Texas Gulf Coast area. We have lost our chance for a 1994 hamvention and the undertaking to reorganize for a future convention will require tremendous organization and lots of work. There are over 126 different ham clubs in our area and an opportunity for each of them to participate will be offered. Some groundwork is presently underway, and by November 1994, we should be seeing directions and be hearing about the basic plans. I will write more about this in the future.

On August 28, a group of our members met at Bill Clark's (WB5YDD) old home to take down a 50-ft. tower, pushup

**BVARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS**  
3.960 MHz 8:00pm Wednesdays  
Compiled by Mel Thatcher, KB5ION

### August 10, 1994

KE5SR (Net Control), N5OAC, N5AFV, W5GHK,  
K15SC, KB5PAJ, N5UOG, N5CPA, W5GLD,  
KB5LFU, W5IHV, W5EFB, N5KXU, KG5KV

### August 17, 1994

KB5ION (Net Control), N5OAC, N5CPA, W5GHK,  
W5GLD, WD5CJL, N5UOG, K15SC, KB5PAJ,  
KE5SR, W5IHV, WA5OEN, KG5KV

### August 24, 1994

N5CPA (Net Control), KE5SR, WA5SCE,  
KB5ZRV, WA5OEN, KB5ION, N5AFV, WD5CJL,  
KG5KV, N5OAC, K15SC, KB5BAJ, WN5A,  
W5GHK, W5IHV, N5YKR, N5UOG

### August 31, 1994

N5CPA (Net Control), W5GHK, W5J73TW,  
N5AFV, KG5KV, KB5LFU, W5GLD, K15SC,  
KB5BAJ, WN5A, AB5OK, W5EFB, WD5CJL,  
WA5SCE, KF5NU

poles and numerous antennas. Bill moved to a new home, and for those of you that don't know, Bill is disabled and unable to do this work for himself. The pushup poles and antennas were reassembled at his new home the same day. So many good-hearted hams came out and donated their Sunday to help Bill. Those that I can remember are Bill Dessens (N5KXU), Louis House (KD5GM), Doug Holley (KE5SR), Dwayne Sumrall (KC5EUQ), Mel Thatcher (KB5ION), and Jack Van DeMark (WN5A). If your name was left out, I apologize. Thanks guys—job well done.

Our annual BVARC picnic is scheduled for October 29. Don't let this get by you, as it is one of our biggest events of the year. I will write with details in October's newsletter.

October will be one of our busiest months of the year. We have one or more public service events scheduled every weekend and Dwayne Jones (KB5YTA) has confirmed reservations at Stephen F. Austin State Park for October 22 for a campout. See you there.

Elections are coming up in November. We need to know now if there are candidates for any of the positions. Please think about someone that you think would do well in a given office. Check with the person to insure that they would be willing to run, then contact Betty (KA0TEN) with your nomination. Time is short and we want to hear from you soon.

If you have thoughts, problems, or need help of any kind, always feel free to call on me. If I can't help, I will find someone that can. That's part of my job as your president.

72' by Doug Holley (KE5SR)

# Board of Directors Meeting

by Bud King, N5UOG

A quorum of the B-VARC Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on September 1, 1994. This was the ninth meeting of the Board for the 1994 calendar year. The following Board members were in attendance: Doug Holley, KE5SR; Melvin Thatcher, KB5ION; Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN; Sam Wilson, N5CPA; Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS; Victor Richard, N5NAS; and Bud King, N5UOG.

President Holley, KE5SR, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Bud King, N5UOG, submitted the minutes of the August Board meeting, and they were approved unanimously.

Sam Wilson, N5CPA, the Club Treasurer, reported a balance of \$3,486.69 in the treasury as of August 31, 1994. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously. Sam Wilson also reported that the Club membership was up to 230. Allen Mattis, N5AFV, and Sam Wilson, N5CPA, notified the Board that the bank had assessed service charges on their Club's accounts, said charges were later rescinded.

Melvin Thatcher, KB5ION, gave the Board an enthusiastic report concerning the B-VARC Rag Chew Net.

Doug Holley informed the Board that Dwayne Jones, KB5YTA, was organizing another B-VARC Camp Out. Information concerning the event will be forthcoming.

Future Programs and Events: September 8, General Meeting, "QCWA", to be presented by it's President Randy Pollard, AK5G, and "Additional Scanner Information", by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY; October 29, "B-VARC ANNUAL PICNIC"; November 10, "ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER", and "ELECTION OF OFFICERS" for 1995; December 8, "PROJECT BEACON" to be presented by Allen Mattis, N5AFV.

Al Zermeno, KK5W, informed the Board of his contact with Kenny Manchester, NZ5I of the Texas DX Society, and their conversation concerning the lack of a Houston Area amateur radio convention for 1994. Additional conversations and meetings are on their agendas. Future plans will be made available to the Board as progress occurs.

The Board, as a whole, participated in discussions as to how the Club membership could be increased, and the sources of programs on tape that would be of interest to the members. The month of February has been picked for the start-up of the B-VARC 1995 Theory Class.

President Holley adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Adolph

Alex - WASUHT

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Chairman of the Board  
**W5IHY**

## A Note of Appreciation

by Doug Holley (KE5SR)

For the past two years, I have taught code classes for those that were interested. In an attempt to help fellow hams learn 5 and 13 words per minute, we have all had to work hard. These training sessions have lasted as long as 13 weeks. The hams we have helped to learn the code and upgrade their licenses have all made it worthwhile.

Fellow ham, Louis House, KD5GM, came to me and volunteered to teach the last session with me. He took over teaching the classes and exhibited leadership and skill with his manner of teaching. The students learned quickly and enjoyed coming to class. The success of the code class goes to Louis.

Louis's love for CW goes way back and he is also a dedicated traffic handler on the H.F. nets, and is involved in the training of CW traffic handling. Whenever fellow hams need help with their projects, Louis is usually first in line to help. Just recently, Louis was there to help Bill Clark with his antenna and tower work—then later spent several Saturdays helping Bill move his household furnishings to a new location. Louis is a super "volunteer."

All I can say, Louis, is a sincere thanks and that this world would be a better place to live with more people or more good hams like you.

# The World of Ten Ten

## International

by Al Mattis N5AFV

The Ten Ten International 1994 Las Vegas Bash, which was held August 18-21, 1994, had 67 amateur radio operators in attendance. Many spouses accompanied the ham radio operators, and good fellowship was enjoyed by all. The only unfortunate incident at the meeting was that Tom Henderson, K4CIH, the new president-elect of Ten Ten International, had his brief case stolen at the Las Vegas airport on his way home. Among other things, Tom lost his camera and several rolls of film which had pictures destined for the 10-10 International News.

A new award procedure has been announced for Ten Ten members collecting bars. In the past, those earning the 1000 bar, 2500 bar, 5000 bar, etc... were awarded plaques. Due to the rising cost of these plaques, certificates will now be issued for those awards. Cost of the plaques had reportedly risen to \$7; the certificates will cost \$2 plus two first class stamps.

Ten Ten paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz. Chapters with specials for paper chasers this month include Ocean State (RI), Steel City (IL), Branding Iron (TX), Branding Iron II (TX), and Brooklyn Bridge (NY). Effective July 12, 1994, the Kings and Queens (MT) and Dancing Dolls (MT) chapters have both gone QRT. An unconfirmed report has also been received that the Texas Gamblers (TX) chapter has also gone QRT. Other sad news received by paper chasers this past month was that George Hollifer, WB7TIM, has become a silent key. George will be missed by many who operate on the ten meter band.

Propagation on the ten meter band has not been very good the last few weeks. The summer E-layer openings have become few and far between, as the band goes through a transition to winter propagation conditions. Winter F-layer propagation should again appear within the next few weeks,

bringing openings to both coasts and an improvement in DX conditions.

Remember, the Houston S.H.O.T. (Space Houston On Ten) net meets every Tuesday evening at 8 pm local time on 28.488 MHz. All amateurs are welcome to check in, even if they do not have a Ten Ten number. If you are not a member of Ten Ten International and wish to join the organization, please check into the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the ten meter band.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR K-ARTS 25K RACE

by Al Mattis N5AFV

This year's K-ARTS 25K will be held on Sunday, November 13, 1994, and volunteers are needed to provide communications for the event. Providing communications at a public service event is a lot of fun, and it helps provide a positive image of amateur radio in the community.

During last year's 25K race, amateur radio communications played an important role. Amateur operators monitored the progress of John London, a sightless runner who ran the race. A runner with two dogs was also tracked, as the race director attempted to have him removed from the course. Radio communications helped to reunite a set of lost car keys with the vehicle's owner. Amateur radio was used to pass a report that the first female finisher was paced by male friends as she ran the race. Pacing is not permitted, and she was disqualified. Near the end of the race, a runner collapsed with severe leg pain near mile 14 just east of Waugh Drive, and was taken by ambulance to St. Joseph's Hospital. Amateur radio played an important role in that medical emergency.

If you wish to help at this year's 25K race, please sign up at the next general membership meeting, or contact Al Mattis at 752-5752 during the daytime, or 721-3637 in the evening before 9 pm.

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KJ5BG  
x-WA5NEM



## MS 150 REVIEW

by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

It has taken a while to get all the information for this article together, but I guess late is better than not at all. I wish I could cover all the MS 150, minute-by-minute, but covering two days of one of the largest bike tours in the state of Texas would definitely be a challenge. If anyone else has other observations, please let me know.

April 23 and 24 saw the bike ride to Austin with nearly 4,800 riders, supported by approximately 1,200 volunteers. The MS coordinator told me that this ride, the Tenth Anniversary, was the most successful ride ever, grossing over \$1.3 million for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Several interesting statistics emerged from the ride:

- 7,000 riders and volunteers ate dinner in La Grange on Saturday night
- Only 300 sandwiches remained of the 9,000 prepared for Sunday's lunch
- Only 12 riders were transported to local hospitals; only one remained overnight
- Over 100 hams worked the event
- Over 15 Amateur radio clubs were involved
- Two separate nets for communications were established - one for medical and one for regular tour information
- 13 repeaters between Houston and Austin were used
- The HF phone patch between LaGrange and Houston completed 170 patches for riders

The communications coordination was incredibly detailed. Literally hundreds of man-hours were spent just on the preliminary plans. There is no way to describe all the planning that the communications coordinator, Bret Prichard, did. Ideas and plans were discussed and rearranged up to the last minute before the event started.

I need to thank the trustees of the following repeaters for the use of their equipment for the ride. Without them, communication would have been very poor.

Also listed are the members of the 1994 MS 150 communications team. This was one team that knew how to get things done and did it the best ever. Again, thanks to everyone who played a part.

### 73's

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
Special Events Coordinator  
Brazos Valley ARC

## Repeaters used on the MS 150 Bike Tour

147.000 Houston	146.880 Houston
145.470 Houston	145.410 Bellville
147.140 Columbus	147.220 Giddings
146.800 LaGrange	145.350 Bastrop
146.900 Austin	147.060 Austin
147.260 Brenham	146.720 Tomball
145.490 Stafford	

## THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE MADE THE EVENT HAPPEN:

### HOUSTON

Dennis Alexander	K2UA
Scott Pederson	K15DR
Gerry Borg	N5APW
Bret Prichard	N5VOY
Ralph Cheek	KB5DNT
Kenny Richmond	KJ5JA
Bob Chmielewski	
Neil Sedatol	KC5BLQ
Mark Cole	KB5WZB
Claude Sessions	K5HFY
Steve Dunkelburger	N5JBL
Steve Shirk	N5SDL
Susan Edwards	KB5ICO
Irv Smith	KB5EXM
Jerry Ellis	N5TTC
Russell Stanley	KE5YJ
Kent Etteldorf	KC6PSB
Oraida Starr	N5WMA
Juan Fontenot	KB4ZDT
Ester Stiver	KB5URT
Dick Hagerman	WB5SRN
Frank Stiver	N5TGM
John Hall	KB5EHW
George Taylor	AB5LT
Mike Hardwick	N5VCX
Barbara Vagienti	KC5FMU
Dave Heard	N5SRC
Mark Vagienti	KC5FMT
Dave Hoffman	KB5UCI
John Vaughn	KC5FEV
Barry Holt	N5RDU
Charlie Wheeler	KB5KIV
Kelly Hughes	N5ULZ
Michael Wheeler	KB5ZNV
Billy Jones	KC5EVD
Bob White	KF5ZL
Bud King	N5UOG
Betty Wilcox	KA0TEN
Mike Lavender	KB5WQJ

(Continued Next Page)

Tommy Youngblood	KC5ASI
Carl Mattem	N5JYT
Al Zermeno	KK5W
Patricia Meleka	KC5CMU

**BELLVILLE / BRENHAM / LaGRANGE / BASTROP / AUSTIN**

Tom Taormina	K5RC
Rick Barnett	KB5JHK
Wade Eilers	WN5TEN
John Creamer	W5QXH
Neal Naumann	KF5SP
Don Spivey	KG5RH
Rich Forst	W5RSJ
Larry Gensch	K9MBB
Bob Ham	N5GCU
Bob Harris	WD5BNB
Midge Taormina	KC5AFO
Michael Lay	N5PTN
Neil Phillips	N1FGD
Anita	N5RAF
Pat	W5NKQ
Tommie Maness	N5YUJ
Charlie	W5OBA
Wilbert	W5RUE
Billie Maness	N5YUI
Thad	W5IRQ
Dave	W5KV
Rick Waldrop	KC5BFU
Joyce	N5OED
Ed	KG5YO
Clay Lueckmeyer	KG5DC
Ann	KG5YH
Harold	KC5AUX
Bob Hicks	KA5BLB
Dennis	KC5AFQ
Ginny	KC5AFP
Cliff Miller	KB5NCU
Jason	K5AFN
Phil	K5DNK
David Nowak	KI5JI
Rudy	WB5SX
Darryl	WA5AAO
George Ullrich, Jr.	K5RTP
Harry Pfeiffer	W5CTZ
Larry Taylor	WT5U

## LIGHTNING AND SPORADIC E-LAYER PROPAGATION

by Al Mattis N5AFV

This past summer, the ten meter band had many excellent sporadic E-layer openings. Sporadic-E propagation was recently discussed in an interesting article by John Davis, of Warm Springs, GA, in the September, 1994, issue of the Lowdown, newsletter of the Longwave Club of America.

Davis discussed a long held belief that lightning in thunderstorms liberates ions which migrate to the ionosphere and enhance chances for E-layer propagation. The ionosphere and the earth together act as a giant leaky capacitor, with the lower atmosphere serving as an insulator between the ionosphere and the earth. Because the atmosphere is not a good insulator, the capacitor slowly leaks its charge. Lightning is a mechanism which has the potential to recharge the ionosphere. Sporadic E-layer propagation is believed to result from radio waves being reflected off clouds of ions drifting in the ionosphere.

This summer saw a marked increase in thunderstorms throughout the southeastern United States. Tropical storms Alberto and Beryl, and tropical depression number 2 all caused significant thunderstorm activity. Davis suggests that the resulting increase in lightning activity may be responsible for this past summer's excellent sporadic E-layer propagation. Many of the episodes of E-layer propagation appeared to be located east of the centers of thunderstorm activity, perhaps caused by clouds of ions liberated by the lightning drifting eastward in the ionosphere.

## 145.47 Repeater Has Tone

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

The M.E.R.A. 145.47 repeater now has tone (CTCSS) capabilities. The tone frequency is 123.0 Hz. The repeater transmits this tone on every transmission. Thus if you have CTCSS decode on your radio you can cut out all intermod and other interference by properly setting up your radio's receiver. The repeater will be put in PL receive mode (thus you will need to transmit the CTCSS tone to access the repeater) only during a band opening or at other special times. When the repeater is in PL you will know because there will be a different "squelch tail" after each transmission. And please always try to remember not to "shot-gun", never talk to or discuss a "squirrel", and always remember that someone is listening.

Special thanks (and apologies) to the 20 or so people whose names and calls we never caught.

# Results of the August 9th

## Amateur Exams

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, September 13, 1994, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

### V.E. TEAM:

Harold Parker, ND5F  
Randy Pollard, AK5G  
Jack VanDemark, WN5A

### Assistants:

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW  
Cass Germany, KG5IT  
Irene Gordon, N5AYX  
Don Schexnailder, AB5IV

A total of 55 exams were administered during the evening to 27 applicants. Ten (10) unlicensed candidates received their new licenses: 1 Novice, 1 Technician Plus and 8 Technicians. Two (2) other applicants upgraded with a total of 31 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 56%.

Congratulations to the following who upgraded and/or passes exams.

Patricia Abbott-Jones - Element 3A  
Lance Bailey - Element 2  
Randolf Birken - Technician  
Robert Cullen, KC5JCT - Technician Plus  
Harold Cunningham - Element 2  
Michael Dalgity - Element 2  
George Dean - Technician  
John Gilmore - Technician Plus  
Minh Ha - Novice  
Darrel Kachilla - Technician  
Ronald Morosko, KB5NFN - Advanced  
Charles Metzger - Technician  
John Moore, KC5CWQ - Element 4A  
Ricardo Palmeira - Technician  
Paul Roeder, KC5IWI - Element 3B & 4A  
Theron Runnels - Technician  
Margaret Wilson - Element 2  
Ray Wyatt - Element 2

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

All of us at B-VARC again thank Vincent, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

73 de ND5F

*I Speak . . .*

**Randy Pollard, AK5G**

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## **PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS UPDATE**

by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

Well, the summer has been long and hot, and it will remain so for a few more months, so BVARC's remaining events are scheduled for after September, when things get a lot cooler (I hope). As you can see, there are still many events left for the rest of the year.

Those remaining events will be coordinated by several highly experienced people. That experience allows the communications at the events to go very smoothly, and new hams can learn and gain confidence operating their ham radios in many situations. If you are new to ham radio and are just a little unsure about working these events, don't worry about your inexperience. The desire to participate and help is the key. Come on out and have a good time with one of the most active clubs in the Houston area and use amateur radio in a fun way

For the 5K run on October 8 and the 20K warm-up run on October 16, the race coordinator, Jerry Aucoin, asked me let everyone know that if non-hams are interested in volunteering, he has several positions open for both events. If you are interested in volunteering for any positions, please call him at 772-2723. He would really appreciate the help.

The 20K warm-up run is the beginning of the warm-up series for the Houston-Tenneco Marathon in January. There will be two more warm-up runs as the schedule shows, one in November and one in December. BVARC has been working the warm-up series for several years now and they are the regular events ever year. Everybody be sure to sign-up for at least one of the warm-up runs this year.

A tentative date of Saturday, November 5, 1994 is scheduled for a public service training class to inform new hams about the finer points of working public service events. Working a ride or run for the first time can be a little scary, and this training should help ease some of the concerns. Attendance at the class is not required before working an event, but it will definitely help. For more information, contact Carl Hacker, Mike Hardwick, or Bret Prichard (calls and phone numbers below).

### **UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS**

**DATE:** Saturday, October 8, 1994  
**Event:** America's #1 Challenge - U. S. Against Violence 5K Run  
**Volunteers needed:** 10-15  
**HAM Contact:** Carl Hacker, KB5LDY, w/792-4359 h/977-9754

**DATE:** Saturday/Sunday, October 15 & 16, 1994

**Event:** ALA Alamo Challenge Bike Ride to San Antonio

**Volunteers needed:** 50-60

**HAM Contact:** Mike Hardwick, BVARC, N5VCX, w/443-8636 h/771-4625  
Bret Prichard, HAMS, N5VOY, w/645-5400

**DATE:** Sunday, October 16, 1994

**Event:** 20K Marathon Warm - up

**Volunteers needed:** 30-35

**HAM Contact:** Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, w/443-8636 h/771-4625 (Pre-event)

**DATE:** Sunday, October 30, 1994

**Event:** Texas Coastal Bike Ride

**Volunteers needed:** 35-45

**HAM Contact:** Bret Prichard, HAMS, N5VOY, w/645-5400

**DATE:** Sunday, November 13, 1994

**Event:** 25K Marathon Warm - up

**Volunteers needed:** 30-35

**HAM Contact:** Allen Mattis, N5AFV, h/721-3637 w/752-5752

**DATE:** Saturday, December 10, 1994

**Event:** 30K Marathon Warm - up

**Volunteers needed:** 30 - 35

**HAM Contact:** Don Wade, WB5IBT, h/242-6706 w/867-3262

**DATE:** January, 1995 (Exact date unknown)

**Event:** Houston Tenneco Marathon

**Volunteers needed:** 120 - 140

**HAM Contact:** Carl Hacker, KB5LDY, w/792-4359 h/977-9754

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# Motorcycle Support Team

## Abet Cyclist

by Doug Holley (KE5SR)

The following article was from the September issue of Crossroads Classic Magazine. Bill Wilson the founder and leader of this group is a member of BVARC along with several other motorcycle riders. The team works many of our public service events and performs a valuable service to our community.

The Motorcycle Support Team of Houston will be riding herd on cyclists at the Crossroads Classic this year. At first glance, members of this club are indistinguishable from those of other clubs, but theirs is a highly trained, unique group, and each member is prepared to do much more than remind cyclists to stay to the right of the yellow line. All 18 members are certified in CPR and first aid and they are all licensed ham radio operators. In addition, each has at least 15 years experience riding a motorcycle and three years riding in events. Bill Wilson, who started the group about 18 months ago, said these requirements keep the group small. "There aren't many people willing to do what they need to join," he said.

Riders in the group dress in black, a color commonly associated with motorcycle riders, but if you look closely you will notice their club patch with the symbols that set them apart. Wilson said they wear black T-shirts to be visible among brightly dressed cyclists. When members become fully certified, they receive a black hat, a black shirt, and one patch.

They designed their own insignia. It is a red, white, blue, and gold embroidered triangle featuring the words "Motorcycle Support Team" around the perimeter, a city skyline, a tiny picture of a ham radio tower, and "CPR" and "First + Aid" on either side of the tower.

Wilson used to ride with another group, but an incident on the MS 150 about four or five years ago was a turning point for him and ultimately led to his starting his own group. On that ride, an overweight, former triple bypass patient had a heart attack just before he got to Brenham. Nobody there knew

CPR, and the cyclist died. That was when Wilson decided to do something to improve the odds for survival for cyclists on future rides.

He became safety coordinator for the group he was riding with at the time and saw to it that many members of that group were certified in CPR. Eventually, though, he branched out to form his current club, with more stringent membership requirements.

The Motorcycle Support Team now volunteers for about 15-20 events each year. Members are attorneys, computer programmers, police officers, electronics repairmen and others. On rides, they communicate with all sag vehicles, sag stops and ambulances. They all have radios and first aid kits on their motorcycles. No ride is ever without a qualified leader, Wilson said. If he can't make it, Max North is his second, and Steve Lockhart is third in the line of command.

If a cyclist goes down, Wilson said, the first order of business is to assess injuries and stop the bleeding. If they can't stop the bleeding right away, they immediately call for an ambulance. If they can stop the bleeding and there are no serious injuries, the cyclist may continue the ride, but team members call for a sag if the cyclist chooses. Team members will take cyclists on their motorcycles with them, if necessary, but they will not take bicycles.

Wilson said his group is motivated by two things. One is a desire to help charities benefiting from rides the team covers. As long as they don't receive anything for their services, members are protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Act. Consequently, he said, "We never give statements to reporters at events" because that could be construed as receiving publicity.

The other motivation is the opportunity to show others that all motorcycle riders don't fit the Hell's Angels stereotype. The Motorcycle Support Team is a regular bunch of guys who like to ride motorcycles and want to do something that matters. Heck, Wilson even sends out thank you cards after the ride. Even his mother would be proud.

73 de KE5SR  
Doug Holley